



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX



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Joint Board Matter

Chairman Bulova Supervisor McKay

March 23, 2010

Madam Chairman— April 1, 2010, is National Census Day, and the census forms have already been mailed by the United States Bureau of the Census. Federal and state laws require the General Assembly and the governing bodies of localities elected by district to consider the 2010 census data in deciding whether their election districts need to be adjusted to meet the "one-man one-vote" standard established by the United States Supreme Court. It now appears that population growth in the past ten years will require the General Assembly to adjust the election districts of the Senate and the House of Delegates. It also appears that the Board will need to reapportion the County election districts.

In the last County reapportionment, the Board established guidelines in advance, and the Board also established an advisory task force composed of citizens. That advisory task force served to engage the community in this important process, and the report of that task force was very helpful in providing the Board with a range of reapportionment options.

The U.S. Census Bureau is not expected to release the Virginia census population data until January 2011 at the earliest. Since 2011 is an election year for both the General Assembly and this Board, timing and coordination will be critically important. Historically, the Board has completed its decennial reapportionment as the General Assembly has prepared its plans for the Senate and the House of Delegates, so close coordination between the state and the County is always essential.

Also, the General Assembly and the County face unusual timing constraints because the 2010 General Assembly did not enact the legislation sponsored by Senator Howell to delay the June 2011 primary elections. I fully expect that the General Assembly will revisit that matter with further legislation, but for now, the time that will be available for state and local redistricting is too short.

With that in mind, Madam Chairman, I move that:

1. The Board refer reapportionment to the Board's Legislative Committee to monitor state legislation and related developments that will affect the Board's reapportionment and to make recommendations to the Board on state and local reapportionment as appropriate;
2. The Board request that the Legislative Committee develop reapportionment guidelines for Board consideration and a recommended process for engaging citizens in this important matter; and

3. The Board direct County staff to prepare a tentative schedule of reapportionment activities and report back to the Board at the September 2010 Legislative Committee meeting with the schedule and information about requirements applicable to reapportionment of the County's election districts.